

Applic. No.: 10/657,899
Amdt. Dated June 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of April 6, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-6 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended.

In item 2 on pages 2-4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-4 and 6 have been rejected as being anticipated by Ishizuka et al. (US Pat. No. 6,469,325 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In item 4 on pages 4-5 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 5 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Ishizuka et al. in view of Satoh et al. (US Pat. No. 4,695,916) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in Fig. 2 and the corresponding description in the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

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Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a third region of the first conductivity type adjoining said second region and having a common surface with said second region;

....

said first terminal and said second terminal each being connected to a respective one of a first potential and a second potential;

auxiliary electrodes disposed on said common surface and each adjoining one of said second and third regions, said auxiliary electrodes being formed as gate electrodes, said auxiliary electrodes being electrically conductively connected with a respective one of said first terminal and said second terminal, and said auxiliary electrodes being electrically conductively connected with one another.

Claims 1, 3, and 6 of the instant application have been amended to recite that the auxiliary electrodes not only are electrically conductively connected with a respective one of the first terminal and the second terminal, but also are electrically conductively connected with one another. Also, the first terminal and the second terminal are connected to a respective one of a first potential and a second potential. These features are not disclosed by Ishizuka et al.

Further, according to the invention of the instant application, the third region (3) and the second region (2) have a common surface. However, in Fig. 17 of Ishizuka et al. the surface at the border between the second region and the

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third region is interrupted by the insulation film 6.

Therefore, the second region and the third region as shown in Fig. 17 of Ishizuka et al. do not have a common surface.

Clearly, Ishizuka et al. do not show "a third region of the first conductivity type adjoining said second region and having a common surface with said second region; ... said first terminal and said second terminal each being connected to a respective one of a first potential and a second potential; auxiliary electrodes disposed on said common surface and each adjoining one of said second and third regions, said auxiliary electrodes being formed as gate electrodes, said auxiliary electrodes being electrically conductively connected with a respective one of said first terminal and said second terminal, and said auxiliary electrodes being electrically conductively connected with one another," as recited in claims 1, 3, and 6 of the instant application.

Claims 1, 3, and 6 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over Ishizuka et al. and since all of the dependent claims are dependent on claims 1 or 3, they are believed to be patentable as well.

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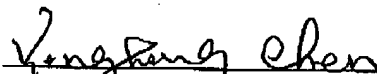
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as
it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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